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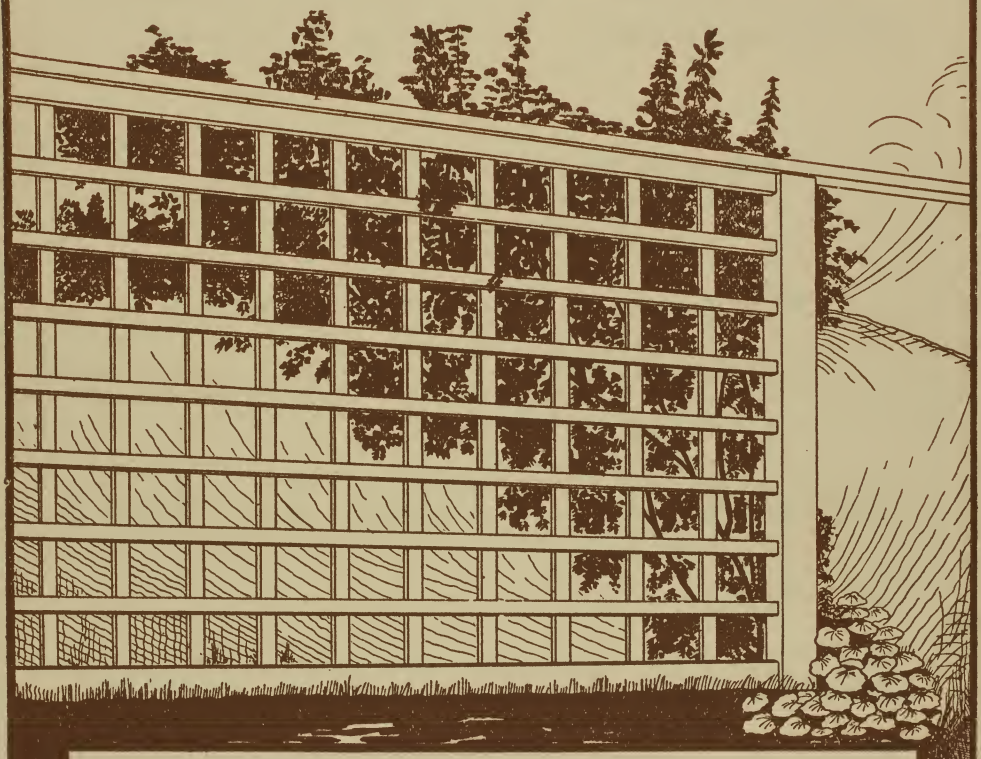
California Garden



IN THIS NUMBER

PREMIUM LIST OF
19TH ANNUAL SPRING FLOWER SHOW
TO BE HELD APRIL 24 AND 25
MAIN PLAZA, BALBOA PARK
ROSES AND ALL OTHER BLOOMS

March 1926 TEN CENTS

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The California Garden

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A BACKYARD FLOWER GARDEN

ALICE MARY GREER.

Will you come with me into the backyard in the early morning—the best time of the day? Not a few steps from the doorsill down a dewy path with the thoughts in our minds and a whiff in our nostrils of a morning cup of coffee, but a journey of many miles from the back door into the flower beds of Southern California. Californians hold the attitude—and rightly I think—that the coast is "front door' and the eastern boundary of the state is "back door", for are we not always looking westward in the direction of the advance of civilization?

Come with me then in the early morning hours, just as the stars are thinking of paling and the night birds are still guarding the sleeping world stretched below them. We speed along over the main artery leading eastward out of Hollywood and Los Angeles and rejoice over the absence of the usual congestion of motorists. El Monte,, Pomona, Riverside are left sleeping behind. Just as we end the grade at Jackrabbit Pass and come out at the summit the "rosy fingered dawn" dispells the mists, the stars blink their final farewell, the east, north, south and west radiate a warm glow and all of nature assumes a mystic appearance for a few short moments. Then behold! It is dawn and dawn from the heights of the hills with the valleys of the orange belt spread at our feet. Such a vista could well be the inspiration for the creation of a salutation to the Dawn:

"Look well to this day,
For it is life," etc.

In a short time we are in the charming mountain towns of Banning and Beaumont; always picturesque with their white church spires peeking from the trees, with their occasional wooden sidewalks and rail fences. But at this season of the year they possess the additional charm of cherry, pear and apple trees a mass of fairy bloom and of fields of grass and buttercups giving of their best to the sleek cows. A family of Mexicans are answering the call to early morning mass and are wending their way across such a field under the fruit blossoms hurring in Indian file, the women holding closely their drab colored shawls. The air is crisp. There is a smell of smoke from wood fires. A long detour takes us across the high bench land just outside of Banning. Our irritation over the fact can't help but be appeased when we turn to the west and see San Antonio Peak and Grayback glistening with fields of snow, turn to the southeast and see San Jacinto bearing its snowy head above its neighbors. As if this were not enough of beauty the foreground is a Persian rug of lavender Alfilaree; stretching far across on all sides, of yellow suncups, mustard, poppies and tidy-tips and of purple lupine and hollyhocks all beautifully intermingled as only the artist nature can mingle them. Well might the beauty of the locality combined with the high dry air benefit the many invalids living there a spiritual as well as a physical help.

A gradual descent drops us onto the Colorado desert. Oh, the majesty of it all! The chains of mountains to the far east bathed in amber mauve tints of early morning, presenting not even a suspicion of vegetation; so constant, so unyielding that one realizes how simple a matter it is for the mountains to crush a life or to reclaim a life. How small to them is a human being! How powerful the force which brought them forth in by-gone days from the bowels of earth! We skirt along the fine highway that follows around the northern and eastern base of snow-capped San Jacinto. Now we are in our flower garden far east of the city. A flower garden which like many backyard flower gardens has run riot. Because the blossoming period of the desert is short, nature has compromised by making it vivid, intense and prolific. All the colors are strong and the sand-colored background makes them appear even more intense. The scraper and steam shovel have not yet made invades upon the desert at large, consequently nature takes her course

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and flings her golden carpet of desert encelias for miles and miles and yet more miles over the rolling sand dunes, giving the effect of molten gold running to the base of the hills on one side and stretching over the flat desert floor on the other. Her pattern is worked out in blotches of magenta sand verbena—which is gorgeous and unusually fine this spring—and with the largest blue Canterbury bells I have ever seen, with accent notes here and there of scarlet bugler or California poppies. There are literally miles of the white desert evening primrose with the exquisite pink tints of the dead blooms intermingled with the gray green foliage. The white blazing star all covered with its prickers and woolly buds flashes its polished striking blossoms along the runways. Here and there we see the deep blue pea-like blossoms on the indigo bushes. We don't marvel at the stretches of cactus—many in bloom now. It is the expected on the desert; but we never cease to marvel at the wealth of spring blossoms. Let me say right here that the most beautiful part of the desert flora is found between the little station of Whitewater near the branch of road leading to Palm Springs—and Mecca.

We pass through the bustling town of Indio, the center of Coachillo Valley and the date industry, and incidentally a wonderful place to drink ice cold sodas. They come especially large and especially cold there. We wonder how even an ice box could remain cold in the midst of such heat—and this is only spring time, not summer heat. In this region and near Mecca are cotton plantations and cotton gins. Many truck-loads of bailed cotton en route to Los Angeles pass us. The date farms and grapefruit orchards look prosperous, but perhaps the most pleasing cultivated crops are the onion fields laid out on all sides—surely enough spring onions for all the tables of the United States.

Six miles east of Mecca we turn abruptly off into the desert on a hard sand road looking as if it would lead nowhere. Little we care as long as it leads us through the colorful flower garden. The road winds and twists up a canyon called the Painted Canyon, and rightfully so, for rising to great heights from a level floor are the bare precipitous walls of sandstone formation and of many hues—red, green, brown, buff, pink and copper color—very like the Grand Canyon of Colorado. It is now half-past ten in the morning and the narrow part of the canyon is in complete shadow so deep is it. Probably the direct rays of the sun reach it only for a few hours each day. There are good roads extending along the floor of the main canyon and the branch canyons for several miles until the canyon sides become too converged for roads. We are told that no one has ever been to the top of the glacial-formed canyon, although trails lead in all directions. At one time excursions by burro were the only means of entrance. Burros are not needed now. Cars are much more agreeable. There are no streams or springs as in Palm Canyon, but digging a short way down in the sand we find it quite damp, probably from recent rains which have been abundant and early on the desert this year.

Many of the flowers in the Painted Canyon show the same delicacy of colors and growth as the Alpine flora. They are exquisite in their fragility. California poppies are small, a pale yellow and light green. The overhead lighting seems to have pulled them to an abnormal height. The trailing nemophila is a mere breath as is the convolvulus. One of the exquisite members of the figwort family—mohavauis concentrafolius is growing in the shade of the cliffs. The two-petaled bloom is a pure white dotted in its funnel-like throat with small brown dots and covered with fine hairs. The foliage is a soft gray green. I note that the roots of this as of all desert plants are very shallow. If you have ever found the fairy lanterns—calachortus alba—growing under the pine trees in our mountains and been thrilled at the finding you can appreciate my thrill when

Continued on Page 10

NOTES BY O. K. S.

The "House Beautiful" for March, page 324, has an exhaustive article on the "Outlook for Narcissus" by Mary Lee, niece of Miss Alice Lee of San Diego. It is well worth reading, and noting the facts; it should make us more careful of our stock of Narcissus bulbs. It also makes one realize that this Pacific Coast is busy in the flower business.

The north and northwest side of Mr. and Mrs. N. E. Brown's residence, corner Palmetto and Arbor Drive, is so very attractive that it is a fine lesson for observation in color arrangement. It is rather unusual, too. The salmon-colored Impatiens and the Luminosa Begonia are conspicuous. The Malecoides Primrose border and a touch of bright blue Cineraria and the winter-blooming Haageana Begonia makes the planting scheme unique.

On the southwest corner of the house there is a Cassia Novoboriense that is very tall, proving that this very strong-growing shrub can be kept attractive and within bounds by intelligent pruning. This Cassia is a fine addition to our gardens and parks. It is of rapid growth, has good foliage and showy yellow spikes of flowers which are in blossom every day.

ACACIAS FOR THE PARKING SPACE

The blackwood variety is of course excellent, but why not use some others that have merit? Acacia Pruinosa is a quick grower, very feathery, and a handsome tree. It stands pruning and is not as expensive to keep in order, as it is more easily prunde. The Blackwood Acacias on the avenue through the park, which are kept severely pruned and very formal, are models for this variety all over the city. The trees in the park are severely pruned because they were planted close for immediate effect and with age they are too close—hence the constant pruning. On our streets they should be allowed to grow more freely and gracefully and not kept so very formal.

Observe the specimen of A. Pruinosa on the northwest corner of St. James and Sheridan, planted on the south side of the house.

Acacia floribunda has much merit and individuality and is always in bloom. It is not an extra large grower and is very easily pruned and kept in order. It is a common variety for gardens, but is good for some of the shorter streets, where the trees should be planted about thirty feet apart. Fertilizer should not be used for Acacias.

POINSETTIAS

Poinsettias need pruning in March and April. The Poinsettia cuttings may dry for at least a week or so before being planted. The heavier and older the wood ,the better the slip. The last three feet of the tall flowering canes have no value. The slips should be sparingly watered when first planted. After they show growth in June and July, be more generous with water and fertilizer.

The winter-blooming vine, "Bignonia Venusta", the orange trumpet, needs pruning in April; the older the vine ,the more necessary to cut back much of the small wood of the last season's growth. The blossoms are always borne on the new growth of each season. Every garden should have one of these vines and its planting season is May to August.

"My Shrubs," by Eben Philpot, in our public library, is an interesting and instructive book for San Diego plantings, though describing the shrubs in an English garden, and those that would not succeed there will flourish here. Coprosma is a failure there and we know so well what a success it is here. There are many such examples and comparisons.

SOIL FROM AROUND ROOTS OF PLANTS BARRED FROM PORTO RICO AND HAWAII

Plant quarantine measures to control the spread of certain injurious insects through the agency of sand, soil, or earth around the roots of plants from Porto Rico and Hawaii will become effective March 1, 1926, after which date it will be unlawful to ship plants from these territories unless they have been entirely freed from sand (other than clean ocean sand) soil, or earth into any other State or Territory of the United States, it is announced today by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Exceptions to the quarantine will be made only in the case of shipments for experimental or scientific use by the Department of Agriculture.

MELIANTHUS

Greek—Honey Flour

At the last meeting of the Association a specimen was brought in for identification. According to Bailey's Cyclopedia it was a var of melianthus, "Evergreen shrubs from South Africa, grown out of doors in Southern California and similar locations."

Melianthus major—"10 ft. or more in height with a widely creeping root—leaves a foot or more in length—stem flexous glabrous racemes densely flowered, 1 foot or more in length; flowers red-brown an inch long. From the Cape, an excellent foliage plant in warm locations." M. M.

FERNS
Pteris tremula

The ease with which this may be grown, its hardiness, fine appearance, and lasting qualities, render it one of the most useful Ferns in cultivation. It is one of the best for indoor decoration, and, if slightly hardened off before being used, will last several weeks in good condition. P. tremula is, perhaps, the freest seeding Fern in existence, the back of the fronds on large plants being nearly covered with spores. The ripe fronds should be cut and shaken over a piece of white paper to collect the spores, which should be kept in a dry, cool place until they are required, and the sooner they are sown the better. If a damp wall or stage in a fernery or stove is at command, they may be sown on this, as they will germinate almost anywhere, or pans or crocks and a little rough peat and loam may be prepared and placed in a shady, warm house. They must be kept regularly and constantly moist without sprinkling them heavily with water, as this is apt to swell many of the spores away.

A green film over the surface is the first indication that germination has taken place. Soon after, the tiny young fronds appear, when the seedlings may be pricked off in very small patches into pans or small pots. No amount of care will ensure all the plants coming true, and often Ferns of entirely different species will come up. P. tremula shows its distinctive characteristics very early, and as soon as the young crowns can be distinctly seen they may again be divided, this time pricking them off singly around the edge of small pots in a light and open compost. Though strictly a greenhouse species, P. tremula may be given more warmth now if it is desired to hurry the plants on, but bear in mind that the more air and less heat they ge,t the longer the fronds will last, either in a cut state or on the plant. In any case, growth is rapid, and the plants must never become pinched for root-room until they have reached the size intended for use. Small plants in 3inch- pots are very useful for standing snugly on the table or for grouping with flowering plants, and it is one of the advantages of this kind that a nicely furnished plant, with a head a foot or more across, may be grown in the size of pot mentioned.

There is hardly an arrangement of plants that this Fern may not be used with, the light, graceful stems standing well up, lightening the effect of other plants, which lose nothing by contrast with them. The large flat epergnes in which flowers and fruit combined used to be arranged are not so much used as formerly, but where they are used, the cut fronds of this Fern set off the fruit admirably. There are also many cut-flower arrangements that are improved by its use in place of the popular Maidenhair, which it surpasses in lasting qualities. It is also a capital kind for a planted-out fernery, where there is plenty of room for its full development, but it is a mistake to plant it among dwarf kinds, as it soon overgrows its position, and smothers perhaps choicer and rarer kinds. In a large house a single large plant of it in a prominent position has a noble appearance. As to compost, it is by no means fastidious, especially when it gets beyond the first stage. A light, fibrous loam, mixed with half its bulk of leaf-mould and a plentiful addition of sharp silver-sand. Suit is admirably. It is safe in winter in a house kept at a minimum temperature of 40 degress. There is a crested form of P. tremula in cultivation, which by some is thought an acquisition, but it is certainly less beautiful and not so easily grown as the type.—Garden Illustrated.

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Flower Show in Balboa Park April 24 and 25.

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING SPEAKER ANNOUNCED

The April meeting of the San Diego Floral Association will take place on Tuesday evening, April 20th, at 7:30 o'clock. Horticulture Commissioner McLane will speak on "Insect Control and Drought-Resistent Shrubs and Trees"—topics which should be of timely interest to all.

Put down the date of the Flower Show, April 24 and 25.

The Mar. and April Gardens

CALIFORNIA GARDEN FOR MARCH-APRIL

Mary A. Matthews.

The majority of herbaceous plants will now be growing well and the borders can be forked over, taking care not to injure such plants as have not yet made their appearance. Platrycodons (Chinese bell flower) likewise some of the lilies often do not appear till quite a time later. If your borders were not manured last fall, give, if possible, a dressing of blood and bone meal, or, if it can be had, pulverized sheep manure. This will benefit the growing plants greatly. If any of the clumps have become too large, divide; this is much better done now than later—it is not too late to plant some of the lilies now, Auratum, Sperciosum and those of the unbrella turn type will all do well if put in now, likewise bi-ennials that you have grown in boxes, hollyhocks, canterburry bells, and sweet williams, though the last is better treated as an annual sowing each year for a new crop.

Monbretias can be put in this month with good results, those planted in the fall will not come on any earlier. Those who have only grown the small, old fashioned kinds will be surprised to see the newer kinds, some of them being nearly two inches in diameter and the colors very brilliant, on tall strong stems, do not lift them till they have made large groups and when they are dug pack them in soil, and keep just moist, do not dry out as we do the gladiolus and dahlias.

Continue to plant hardy annuals, it is impossible to over estimate the value of hardy annuals for the summer garden, that is if you are willing and can give the time to them, and it would be well to select a few choice kinds and give them the care they require, rather than grow a lot indifferently. A great deal depends on the soil and the weather, but they should flower in about three months on a light warm loam they flower earlier than in a heavy soil.

Prevention is always better than cure, so it is well to cover the crowns of all those plants that slugs and snails are so fond of, also put a circle of tobacco dust or lime around them, this is very necessary when frequent irrigation goes on. A new plant in gardens is the Cynoglossum or Chinese forget-me-not, it has very similar true blue flowers growing in clusters. It is low growing, suitable for borders, a word of warning though,

Continued on page 13

THE GARDEN

By Walter Birch.

March is one of the heaviest seeding and planting months in both the vegetable and flower garden, so take advantage of the likli-hood of more rains during the next few weeks and get your seeds and plants in the ground under more favorable planting conditions than we may have later in the season.

For the vegetable garden thrifty plants can now be had of tomato, egg plant, peppers and herbs, all of which can be planted, especially in the lighter and warmer soils, which, of course, have been properly prepared by deep spading and manuring.

Sweet corn and beans can also go in, Golden Bantam or Oregon Evergreen are both good varieties of corn, and the two most popular beans are Kentucky Wonder for pole and Burpee's Stringless Green Pod for bush.

Melons and cucumbers are also seasonable, the best early musk melon is Pollock 10, 25, an improved type of Rocky Ford, and a larger and later one is Tip Top, a great favorite with the market gardener. You will find the Klondyke cucumber a good early one, and the Davis Perfect a fine one for all the season.

Don't forget to look out for the usual garden pests, as they are looking out for the young plants and are particularly active at this time of year, and can soon be the undoing of all your efforts in the garden. So at the risk of repelition we will give you a few of the simple remedies.

For snails, slugs and sow bugs use half pound Calcium Arsenate to eight pounds coarse bran. For aphis or plant lice use Nicospray, one tablespoonful to one pint of water. This is a contact spray and you must "hit the animal" with it to get results. For blight, rust and mildew use Qua-Sul, and for Red Spider Scales, Mealy Bug, etc., use Volck Spray. All of these sprays are comparatively inexpensive and are usually put up with full directions for use.

In the flower garden there are many plants you can now set out, including asters, snapdrangs, larkspur, ageratum, pansies, scabiosa, zinnias, aquilegia, double dasies, carnations, coreopsis, geum and many others. The American Beauty type of aster is the favorite florist type on account of its long stems and large flowers with incurved petals. The Crego

Continued on Page 16

The California Garden

Editor
Alfred D. Robinson

Associate Editor
Miss Mary Matthews

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OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS
Mrs. Mary A. Greer, President
Mr. Walter Birch, Vice-President
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4738 Kensington Drive, San Diego

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EDITORIAL

Ideas persist when things fail. The Civic Auditorium, which for years housed so charmingly the Flower Shows of the San Diego Floral Association, is but a memory, but the Spring Flower Show time has again come round and will this year be staged in the building east of the Montezuma garden in Balboa Park, and the premium list is printed in this copy of California Garden, also the list of chairmen who will cheerfully impart information in their several departments.

San Diego has many new residents, California Garden a number of new readers, which seems to justify a few remarks about the twice a year Flower Shows that have been held sequentially in San Diego for twenty years. Firstly, as a blanket statement it is safe to affirm that there is no equally important floral exhibition staged in the United States at so small a financial outlay and so large an expenditure of volunteer effort, and yet the credit balance is always small. San Diego owes its flower shows to its Floral Association, and considering the favorable notoriety they have given her, she owes that association a wholesouled support. This year the change of location, with its consequent rearrangement of floor plan and everything else, imposes on the volunteer staff an added burden and possible expense, in view of which California Garden asks for a display of public appreciation that will measure up to the situation.

The attendance at The San Diego Flower Shows has always been the best on the Coast, considering circumstances, population, etc., but even then it has never reached ten per cent of the folks. It is not to be expected that everybody will go to a flower show, having lived a good long time, we had almost said, it is not desirable that all the folks should go, but it is not conceivable but that a majority would find pleasure and profit there, and they would be patting on the back an organization that exists solely as a public service. The unfortunate part of all this exhortation is that the readers of it are all sympathisers and supporters already. Well, it is up to them to go out and make converts. Give all your newcomer neighbors an invite to the show, steer them to the association booth, call their attention to the Floral Home, its library and the monthly meetings. But before all this comes the work of getting together the exhibition, the coaxing of the lagging and the shy, the holding steady of the over-enthusiastic, the emulsifying of the proud, and the informing of the ignorant. It has been said a million times that it takes all kinds of people to make a world, but it takes more than that to make a flower show, a lot of each kind at least. There are the extreme optimists that are perfectly impractical, and the pessimists that know this time it is going to be a fizzle, and truly certain elements of such events are in the lap of the gods, the weather before and at the time, the mob pulse which beats fast or slow for exhibitions, being inclined to go or declaring itself fed up. Every time some enthusiast wants music and another refreshments, but trials more than once have plainly shown that visitors to a flower show come to see the flowers, and possibly each other, and rather resent trimmings, whether for ear or stomach. Talk is a necessary part of a flower show—talk about the flowers shown and those left at home, the much better ones of last week and those to come in future days, talk of methods, muck and water—but in every case talk, which resents extraneous matter that interferes with its easy flow. And here comes a curious anomaly, almost, for though a multitude of individual conversations are desirable, anything in the way of a lecture is quite ignored. Several times a program of apparently intriguing talks has been arranged, only to prove an unintentional insult to the talker, as only those who wished to sit down for a rest attended, and spielers utterly failed to herd in one unwearied one.

However there is something sure of appre-

ciation and that is to give away something. It does not matter how trivial, the commonest seed package, a slip of a geranium, anything, and it is absolutely astonishing how fast they go, often into hands that have no earthly use for them. Perhaps this is why our government persists in a wholesale and most promiscuous distribution of seed, and that reminds us we have not this year received our package of beet, lettuce and radish to assure us that Washington has us vegetatively in mind.

Perhaps you realise that the whole object of this is to fix the coming Flower Show in your mind, to try and get you to accept it as yours and to make a missionary of you. This illustrates the idea. At the last show an enthusiastic spirit steered up to us a party to be introduced, and whispered, "He is the tenth one I have roped in to this show." If that was not a birdie we know nothing of golf, and we don't, but we wish we had a medal to show appreciation.

Now remember the date, April 24 and 25; the place, the building east of and adjoining the Montezuma garden; the event, the Nineteenth Spring Show of The San Diego Floral Association given for the benefit of the City and County of San Diego and all its inhabitants. Attend and bring the gang.

A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY

M. Correvon of Switzerland will lecture in San Diego April 9th next at the Wednesday Club House, under the auspices of the Floral Associations of Coronado, La Jolla and San Diego.

Our readers will remember the interesting article by K. O. Sessions in last September number of the California Garden which described her visit to the nursery of M. Correvon at Geneva, Switzerland, and now the man himself is touring the United States, and he will be in San Diego April 9th to deliver his one lecture for Southern California at the Wednesday Club House in Ivy Lane, which had been previously engaged, but the parties who had spoken for it, realising the importance and urgency of the occasion, courteously gave way.

This is no ordinary event. M. Correvon is an internationally recognized authority on rock gardens and Alpine flora and has written several books on these subjects, three of which are in the Floral Association library in Balboa Park, and he brings with him lantern slides in color made by the Lumiere process, so ably exploited on many occasions by Harold Taylor. The educational value of this lecture will be very great, and the Floral Association asks all members and friends to secure for it the widest publicity possible. It has been dated solely as a benefit to the community, the limited seating capacity of the hall and the low price of admission, fifty cents, preclude any further financial return than recouping actual expenses.

Let every one come and urge others to do so, so that this distinguished visitor may see that San Diego appreciates the honor he has paid her by giving her his one date in Southern California.

ANNUAL ACACIA SHOW

On the afternoon of Thursday, March 4th, the annual Acacia Show was held in the Floral Home with a large attendance. There were some thirty-five- different species of acacia represented, and the great boughs of silvery green and golden yellow made an attractive and fragrant decoration for the hall. Each variety had been supplied with a tag bearing its botanical name, and many visitors took advantage of this opportunity to learn the names of their favorites. Tea was served at four o'clock.

The regular monthly meeting of the Floral Association will be held at the Floral Home, Balboa Park, Tuesday evening, April 20, at 7:30 o'clock. Mr. McLean, County Supervisor of Horticulture, will give a talk on "Control of Insects" and one on "Drought Resistant Flora." This meeting, immediately precedes the Spring Flower Show, and this will be a good opportunity to ask questions about the same.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE.

MARCH MEETING OF THE SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION

The regular monthly meeting of the San Floral Association was held on the evening of Tuesday, March 16th, at the Floral Home in Balboa Park. The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Mary A. Greer, the new President, who announced the appointment of Mr. John Burnham as Director and Treasurer. After several other announcements which appear elsewhere, Mrs. Greer introduced former President L .A. Blochman. Mr. Blochman is now living in San Francisco, and he gave a short talk on the chief differences between the gardens of San Francisco and San Diego.

Mr. G. E. Barrett of the National City Fernery, who was to have been one of the speakers of the evening, was unable to come on account of illness. Miss Sessions, and later, Mr. Robinson, spoke very entertainingly of their experiences with growing ferns here in San Diego, illustrating their talk wtih specimens of ferns, of which there were a great many interesting varieties—ranging from the tiniest lace-like maiden-hair to the ten-foot frond of a treefern from the Rosecroft Begonia Gardens.

Flower Show, April 24 and 25.

Patronize the Garden Advertisers.

ASSOCIATION INVITED TO VISIT MRS. EVANS' GARDEN

The San Diego Floral Association is to have a treat early in April, when Mrs. Herbert Evans has invited the members to visit her garden in Mission Hills. Mrs. Evans' garden is one of the most beautiful in the city, and the Association is fortunate to have this opportunity of seeing it. Watch the newspapers for further details.

APRIL WEATHER IN SAN DIEGO, CALIF.

By Dean Blake.

April is the month of showers, but heavy rains are quite unusual. The warming up of the Colorado Valley induces an indraft of cool, moist air from the Pacific, and the result is an increase in cloudiness and a considerable number of showery days in this section. Dynamically heated winds, locally known as "desert winds", because they appear to come from the desert, sometimes take place, and when they do the thermometer will rise above 80 or even 90 degrees, and the relative humidity drop as low as 10 or 15 per cent.

Frost has never occurred in the city during the month, and a temperature below 40 degrees was recorded but once—in 1875. Likewise, windstorms and blustery days are almost unknown.

The following statistics for the month are interesting: Mean maximum temperature, 65.2; mean minimum, 52.4; absolute highest temperature, 96 in 1910; absolute lowest, 39 in 1875. Average rainfall, 0.61 inches; greatest 2.91 in 1878; least, Trace in 1918. Percentage of possible sunshine, 69 per cent.

MONTEREY CYPRESS ABROAD

Have just returned from a visit to the Channel Islands, it will interest many American arboriculturists to know that on some of the rocky storm-swept cliffs of Jersey, I saw large belts of Monterey Cypress (Cypressus Macrocarpa) and Monterey Pine (Pinus insignis), evidently planted many years ago as wind-breakers. This, in itself, may not convey much significance to some, but to those who know the headlands of Monterey, where these two trees are growing side by side, and occupying what is the last remaining area of their natural habitat, the fact is interesting. To me it awakened many memories, not only of that noble headland and its lonely occupants, striving together to resist the eternal anger of wind and water, but of "R. L. S." and his immortal essay on "The Old Pacific Capital" and those storm-tossed veterans of Monterey's rugged heights.—Arthur T. Johnson in Gardeners' Chronicle.

Flower Show, April 24 and 25.

SHOW CHAIRMEN

Roses—John Marshall, Hill. 4193-W.K.

Sweet Peas—Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Gibb, Hill. 2947.

Bulbs—Mrs. John Burnham, P. L. 367.

Decorated Tables—Miss Alice Halliday, Hill. 4041-W.

Baskets—Mrs. Fred Scripps, Mrs. Leonard Ellis, Hill. 724.

Annuals and Perennials—Mrs. M. G. Straus, Hill. 3094.

Garden Displays—Mr. and Mrs. John Bakkers, Main 86-W.3.

Miscellaneous—Dr. Anita Muhl, Hill. 591.

Wild Flowers—Carrol DeWilton Scott, City Schools, phone 644.49.

Wild Flowers—Wm. S. Wright, County Schools, Hill. 4723-M.

Professionals and Service Exhibits—Walter Birch, Main 842.

Judges and Floor Plan—J. G. Morley, Main 255.

Publicity—John Burnham, P. L. 367.

Glads - Dahlias

If you have not already planted your Dahlia roots now is the time to see that they go in the ground. We have a large stock of the varieties that always do well in this section, such as, Countess of Lonesdale and A. D. Lavoni, at 25 cents; Dreer's White, F. W. Fellows, Red Sea, Millionaire, etc., at 50 cents; Mary C. Burns, Meyerbeer, Bertha Horne, etc., at $1.00; a good collection of pompons at 35, 50 cents and $1.00, as well as the best of the new ones when you wish a little something better than the ordinary kinds.

Glads can still be planted and give a most satisfactory account of themselves. We still have a number of dormant varieties on hand as well as our No. 1 assortment at $4.00 per 100 and our No. 2 assortment at $2.50 per 100, 50 at the 100 rate.

Call and see us at our Gardens or write us for advice regarding these plantings.

CUSHMAN GLAD—DAHLIA GARDENS

702 E. Twenty-fourth Street

National City, Calif.

P. O. Address Route 1, Box 166

PREMIUM LIST

Nineteenth Annual Spring Show, Roses and Other Flowers, Saturday and Sunday, April 24 and 25 1926, Main Plaza, Balboa Park, Opening Saturday 2 P. M. Admission 25 Cents.

Section "A" Amateurs

*1. Best Collection of Roses—not less than 12 varieties and not more than 3 blooms of a kind. (Association Cup.)
*2. Best Collection of Roses—six varieties. Not more than 3 of each.
3. Best Three White Roses, one variety.
4. Best Three Red Roses, one variety.
5. Best Three Yellow Roses, one variety.
6. Best Three Yellow Shaded Roses, one variety.
7. Best Three Pink Roses, one variety.
8. Best Three Pink Shaded Roses, one variety.
9. Best Three Flame Colored Roses, one variety (example Mde. Heriot).
10. Best One White Rose.
11. Best One Pink Rose
12. Best One Yellow Rose
13. Best One Red Rose
14. Best One Crimson Rose.
15. Best Single Rose (example Isobel or Irish Elegance).
16. Best Display of Polyantha or Baby Roses.
17. Best Display of Climbing Roses.
18. Best Rose not before shown in San Diego.
19. Best Six General McArthur Roses
20. Best Six Los Angeles Roses.
21. Best Six any other variety Roses.
22. Best Arranged Vase, Bowl or Dish of Roses.
*23. Best Arranged Basket of Roses. Greenery allowed as decoration.

Section "B" Amateurs

24. Best Arranged Basket of Flowers other than Roses.
25. Best Arranged Basket of Wild Flowers.
26. Best Arrangement of Flowers in Bowl, Vase or Dish.
27. Best Flowering Plant for the house.
28. Best Individual Specimen Decorative Plant.
29. Best Cut Specimen Flowering Vine.
*30. Best Display of Bulb Flowers.
31. Best Display of Gladiolus.
32. Best Display of Iris.
33. Best Display of Pansies.
34. Best Display of Wild Flowers grown by an individual.
*36. Best General Collection of Flowers from a 50 foot or less lot. Trophy.
*37. Best General Collection of Flowers from a private garden larger than fifty feet. Trophy.
*37a. Best Display from Civic, State or National institution.
*38. Best Collection Sweet Peas, not less than 15 stems.
39. Best Vase White Sweet Peas.
40. Best Vase Light Pink Sweet Peas.
41. Best Vase Dark Pink Sweet Peas.
42. Best Vase Red Sweet Peas.
43. Best Vase Lavender Sweet Peas.
43a. Best Vase Blue Sweet Peas.
44. Best Vase Purple Sweet Peas.
45. Best Vase Salmon Sweet Peas.
46. Best Vase Maroon Sweet Peas.
47. Best Vase Bicolor Sweet Peas.
Limit 20 sprays in classes 39 to 47.
48. Best Arrranged Basket of Sweet Peas.
49. Best Arranged Bowl of Sweet Peas.
50. Best Display Cinerarias, Dwarf Hybrid.
*Sweet Pea Sweepstakes.
51. Best Display of Cinerarias, Stellata.
52. Best Potted Cinerarias, Dwarf Hybrid.
53 Best Potted Cinerarias, Stellata.
54. Best Display of Pelargoniums or Lady Washington Geraniums.
55. Best Display of Geraniums.
56. Best Display of Delphiniums.
57. Best Display of Stocks.
58. Best Display of Snapdragons.
59. Best Display of Calendulas.
60. Best Display of Larkspurs.
61. Best Display any other flowers not otherwise classified.
*62. Best Table Decoration.

Section "C" Children's Classes

*63. Best Collection of Wild Flowers by any

school in city.

*64. Best Collection of Wild Flowers by any school in county, outside of city.

Section "D" for Professionals

(Entries by Nurserymen)

*72. Best Display of Cut Roses.

73. Best General Display of Cut Flowers other than Roses.

*74. Best General Display of Shrubs and Plants.

75. Best Display of Everlasting Flowers.

76. Best Display of Bulb Flowers.

(Entries by Florists)

*77. Best Arranged Basket, Bowl or Vase of Cut Flowers.

79. Best Bride's Bouquet.

80. Best Hand Bouquet.

*Classes in which Trophies are offered. Handsome ribbons for first and second in all classes.

RULES

1. All exhibits must be in place and properly entered by 10 a. m. of first day of show so that judging may be completed an awards made before opening. All vases, baskets, etc., belonging to exhibitors, must be called for Monday morning ,not later than 11:00 o'clock. No exhibitor will be allowed to be present while judging is going on.
2. All entries must be in the hands of the clerks by 9 a. m. of the first day of show. Clerks wil be on duty at 7:30 a. m. and entries will be received at any time between these hours.
3. All pot plants must have been in the possession of the exhibitor at least three months; all other flowers and plants except collected wild flowers must have been grown by the exhibitor, except where used for table decoration.
4. The committee on awards is authorized to give suitable award for any meritorious exhibit not included in classes named above.
5. Exhibits can be entered in one class only.
6. Vases are loaned without charge for cut flowers in the competitive classes.
7. Exhibits are, from the commencement of the show, under the jurisdiction of the show officials, and no exhibit shall be removed before the close of the show without the authority of the officials in charge.
8. Entries will not be considered by judges unless meritorious.
9. All Exhibits must be labeled with the correct names of the plants on white cards 2x3 inches, which will be furnished without charge. Names of exhibitors in competitive classes positively must not appear on exhibits until after awards have been made.

   (Entries in class 37a excepted from this rule.)
10. In classes where a given number of blooms is specified, any excess or deficiency of count shall constitute cause for disqualification.
11. Artificially colored flowers or plants will not be received as entries.
12. All exhibits are staged in conformity with the rules of the show. Deviation from the above rules may constitute cause for disqualification.
13. In classes 63 and 64, best dining table decoration, fancy cloth should not be used. Decorations should be so arranged on table as to allow space for service. Table will be judged on the basis of the floral decoration only.
14. Sweet Peas will be judged by length of stem, color, size, substance and number of flowers on stem.
15. The Floral Association invites exhibits, however small, if meritorius.

    Exhibits of single specimen of flowers or plants will be duly considered.

    No fee is charged for making entries in this show. Special reservations of space may be made by telephone with the Secretary, Hillcrest 4247-J. Where exhibits are to be of any considerable size, it is advisable to make reservations in advance.

    Roses. Iris and Sweet Peas will be judged according to the standards of the National Specialty Societies.

OH THOSE HAPPY CUBANS

D. L. Mackintosh gave an informal talk on his recent visit to Cuba and told of its flora, as he saw it from a train, for he did not have time to view it closely. Crotons, Dracaenas, and Bougainvilleas for my tropical garden before almost every house and as they are not indigenous, it shows how a white man always takes plants with him into new territory. Palms are like forests; the government objects to destroying them, when cutting down the sugar canes, so that groves of Palms appear every now and then on the sugar plantations. Mr. Mackintosh stated it was impressed upon him how far back Cuba is in horticulture, for there is a lack of modern methods. Oranges and pineapples grow wild —the latter are used as hedges to keep stock fenced in—and every one raises bananas, that is, they plant the trees and cut the fruit, for little attention seems to be given them by the average Cuban. In fact, plants seemed to grow just by thrusting them into the ground, though the educated Americans and Cubans go in for tropical gardening in a more thorough manner, and Rose growing, is carried on to perfection. Gardeners' Chronicle, New York.

Flower Show, April 24 and 25.

A CACTUS FANTASY

By Myrtle Shepherd Francis.

Was Mother Nature discouraged when she looked at the desert and saw all that she had to do?

In the temperate zones she had covered the mountains with towering pines and firs, on the hills and plains she planted massive oak and a thousand lesser trees and shrubs and the meadows were filled to overflowing with dush grasses and myriads of lovely colorful flowers.

In the tropics lofty palms reared their graceful heads, great and small ferns uncurled their delicate fronds, bamboos fluttered their dainty leaves and every inch of space was filled with vines and plants rioting for "a place in the sun". Did she not thrill at the wonder of it? Did she not rejoice at her handiwork? And when she came to the arid regions was she not dismayed? Ah no, for it is all one with Mother Nature, the harder the work, the greater the achievement.

The clear, pure air shimmered in the early morning light, the great blue bowl of sky hung glittering overhead, the rays of the rising sun were like blasts from a mighty furnace while now and then the fierce winds flung the undulating sand in swirls against mountain and cliff.

She sat down to think and from those thoughts was evolved the most wonderful of Nature's creations, not even the orchid, most ethereal of plants equals these. the cacti.

Plants to survive such conditions must have endurance, she mused, and vitality, perseverance, originality, initiative, and her eyes twinkled, a sense of humor. "Oh dear," she exclaimed, "I almost forgot beauty. It is really too much to give a plant all these other qualities and beauty too but they must have some compensation for their hardships."

Out of the thread of her thoughts Mother Nature wove strong fiberous stems; stems long and straight, stems short and thick, stems flat or round, stems branched and twisted. On the upper of these stems from her thoughts and the mystery called life she moulded layer upon layer of delicate watery crystal cells, and upon these cells she placed an epidermal wall of closer, finer cells and over all she drew a cuticle of glaucus blue, gray. green, dull purple, red or brown; a cuticle so tough, so smooth, so fine that the moisture could not radiate, the sun's heat burn, nor the fierce winds break.

She chiseled ridges upon the surface of the giant cereus, on the decumbant cereus she made protuberance and depressions, the echino cactus and the mamillarias she moulded, she kneeded, she patted, into a thousand fantastic, grotesque and humorous shapes. How ridiculous they looked, those long, bald lanky, snakey stems, those short, bumpy, lumpy, warty stems. Mother Nature laughed until she cried.

Now what would she do for leaves, that was the question? Animals would eat them, the sun burn them, the cold freeze them and the winds blow them off: The thought came to her of the jewels of the night, the stars, she would clothe them with stars. For the points of the stars she made spines; spines long and short, spines barbed and hooked, pines incurved and outcurved, pines soft as down or thick as wool, spines tough as horn or delicate as floor, spines red, yellow, white, black or brown, deftly fastening them on ridges, protuberances and tubercles in the most intricate geometrical designs. From the centers of these groups of spines she set the flower buds. Oh! the glory of the blossoms, that burst from those funny, lumpy, bumpy, warty stems. Sewed up and down the ridges of the giant columnar cereus were delicately ruffled golden or pink flowers, to the branching cereus she gave large greenish white blossoms followed by luscious rosy red fruits, on the opuntias she strewed flowers of red, orange, yellow and magenta with fruits as colorful as their flowers, and she decorated the echino cactus, the echino cereus and the mamillarias with a bewildering array of gorgeous blooms of violet, rose, pink, scarlet and yellow with a texture so fine and satiny as to make the lily seem coarse.

Mother Nature now ready to plant made a root of the other end of the stem, a strong woody root covered with a thick soft bark able to absorb every particle of moisture that came near.

In the vast open spaces she planted forests of the giant cereus that rear their branches and columns to the sky, over bushes and stones the scandent varieties trailed or clambered, with lavish hand she scattered opuntias far and wide, over hill and plain and in nook and hollow, midst rocks and bushes, on cliffs and in crevices she tucked echino cereus, echino cactus and mamillarias. She planted and planted and planted until the evening was upon her and still there was cactus stuff in her bag.

"Oh! bother," said Mother Nature, "and I have run out of spines, too, I simply can't spend any more time on this experiment, much as I would like too," so she gathered up all scraps but two and tossed them out in the desert, the two she dropped in the tropical forest saying, "Now let us see what you

can do for yourselves."

Ages slipped by before Mother Nature gave her desert a thought, but the brilliant versatile forms of life she had give it were not idle. The pilo cereus, echinopsis, pereskia and the Rhipsalis came into being; the decumbent cereus sent out long aerial roots to cling with, those planted late in the evening bloomed at night, many had developed a delightful perfume and all produced cristate or monstrous forms.

But the poor little bits without any spines that were cast out in the desert so casual like by Mother Nature, what had become of them? At first they felt most naked and forlorn, especially as all the rest of the famly were so stuck up, but they soon realized that if they were to survive they would have to do something, so they snuggled in the sand, they nestled close to rocks and they cuddled up to the roots of the yuccas and bushes. Then they puckered, they flattened, they stretched, they thickened, they toughened and spotted their cuticle each one trying as best it could to mimic the object nearest it till no one could tell the 'tother from which.

Now the two pieces dropped in the forest were highly delighted. One fell in the crotch of a tree, the other on the ground. The one on the ground proceeded to develop claws (the epiphyllums "Lobster" and "Crab Cactus") and clambered up by its cousin in the tree. Both had flattened their joints and stems and become leaflike (the phyllo or "Case Knife" Cactus). They reclined on the limbs of trees in elegant leisure imitating the aristocratic orchids and bromiliads to perfection, their glorious flowers of magenta, scarlet, pink, white and rose rivalling the orchids in beauty and illuminating the pine forest with their brilliancy.

When Mother Nature returned she was radiant with delight as she realized what the cactus had done. She went from end to end of the desert and forest and explored every mountain and cliff marvelling at their ingenuity. One mamilliaria had mimicked a yucca, Leichtenbergia principis, another a piece of worm eaten wood, Belecyphora asseliformis, another a flat starlike rock Anhalonium fissuratum "living Rock", but the most surprising of all were Anhalonium Williamsii, the "Dumpling Cactus" and Echino cactus Myriostigma the "Bishop's Hood". Mother Nature clapped her hand as she exclaimed, "I can understand how they imitated the yucca, the piece of wood and a rock, but the lobster's claws, and the bishop's miter, the knife and the 'pudding in a bag' beats me." She continued, "You have done everything and more than I expected of you, you are scientists of the plant world and the darlings of my heart."

NOTES ON BILLBERGIA NUTANS

It is only within quite recent years that our gardens and lath houses have been brightened with this odd and graceful plant. Some ten or twelve years ago it was comparatively rare but the ease with which it is propagagted and its indifference to uncongenial conditions gives its advance an aggressive mein.

The Bromeliaceae or pineapple family to which it belongs is confined to our American tropics, and most of the four hundred species have mounted to the shoulders of the forest giants and so, as lofty epiphytes, secured their place in the sun. Their hanging and clinging vases form a very characteristic feature in our tropic jungles—far more so than the orchids who, while far superior in variety are inferior in numbers. The vases serve to catch and hold the rain and from these reservoirs the plant obtains its moisture. Scaly absorbing hairs are immersed in the liquid,—engaged in transferring the water to the storage tissue within the leaf,—the true roots serving principally as holdfasts.

Practically all are quite tropical—as all the higher epiphytes are—but the one exception is very striking, dominating the landscape of an entire region. The most characteristic and even present feature of our Southern States is the Spanish Moss (Tillandsia usneiodos) hanging in gray weeping festoons from every branch and twig and swaying to every breeze.

The Billbergias belong to the same section of the family as does the pineapple, the fruits of both being berries. In Dyckia the fruit is a dry capsule and in Tillandsia the seed is hairy.

Billbergia nutans was found in European gardens about 1868, its native country is not known for it was brought to the notice of botanists after its introduction. It is probably wild in south and central Brazil for this is the headquarters of its closest allies.

The individual plant consists of eight to ten leaves arranged in an open, vasiform rosette capable of holding quite a bit of water. The leaves are a half inch broad at the base and a foot or more long tapering to a recurved point. The margins are minutely toothed or smooth. From the base many stolens arise creeping outward a short distance before unfolding. Thus the colony enlarges until great clumps are formed. The graceful nodding flower spike arises centrally, terminating the growth of that particular crown. The raceme curves airily over the vase brim, weighted down with its burden of pendent green and blue bells. from this nodding habit the plant receives its specific name. The bracts clothing the flower stem are bright, clear pink and form a striking bit of color. The general effect of the inflorescence is of a subdued and

airy elegance.

In cultivation they thrive under varied conditions. Planted out in damp shady corners or in the fern bed they are quite at home and during the winter months when they are in flower attract much attention. Wired to palm trunks in the lath house they make splendid specimens increasing in beauty yearly. Propagation is by simple division, separating the young stolens after they have leaved out and are well rooted.

HARRY JOHNSTON.

February 4th, 1926.

NEW CALENDULA IS NOT PARTICULAR AS TO SOILS—KEEPS WELL WHEN CUT

In reports of the Chelsea Flower Show in England last spring, the world's greatest flower show, the following lines tell of the arrival in England of an American improvement of an old annual of Shakespeare's day: "A gorgeous mass of coloring in a table group of a very fine form of our old friend the Scotch or pot marigold under the name of 'Ball's Calendula'."

Ball's calendula, an unusually brilliant orange, large-flowered form of this popular old annual was obtained by selection from the old Prince of Orange type, one of the plants showing unusual double flowers of great size and intense coloring. This was grown in the greenhouse and the strain fixed. It is now one of the most popular of greenhouse annuals for cut flowers and equally popular in the garden, where it is much superior to the common types usually grown.

Pot marigolds, or, as they are now known by their botanical name of calendula since they became greenhouse inhabitants, are one of the oldest, most easily grown, and popular annuals for the summer garden, starting to bloom in June from seed sown in the open ground. They are exceptionally fine for cutting, being very lasting in water. They come in various shades of yellow and orange, Ball's being the finest type.

They are not particular as to soil and are one of the good drought-resistant annuals, although they respond to a liberal supply of water. If given too rich soil they are likely to run too heavily to leaves. A moderately rich soil suits them best. Plant one foot apart and you will have a mass of bloom and as fine material for cutting as you can get of its color. They are often associated with the blue cornflower in bouquets with fine effects.

Ball's calendula is a good suggestion for the seed order if you are not acquainted with this fine form.—San Diego Union.

Put down the date of the Flower Show, April 24 and 25.

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FLOWER GARDEN

Continued from Page 5

cut the flowers as soon as faded, as they carry spines on their seeds and stick to everything, hence the old name, "Sticktight". Give attention to securing chrysanthemum cuttings this month.

Divide your perennial phlox this month, if they need it. Put in a lot of gladiolus. Do not neglect to give blooming bulbous things ample water.

CHRYSANTHEMUMS

80 choice varieties of Market and Show Mums—Stanards Pompons, Animones, and Singles, at retail, postpaid. Some of my novelties this year are—Yukon, Snow-Bound, Distinction, Oct. Rose, Bokhara and Yellow Fellow. Write for Descriptive Circular. Name this paper.

M. A. WALLACE

Rt. A., Box 397

San Fernando, Calif.

ALUMINIUM SULPHATE AND LIME AS A SPRAY FOR SLUGS

It would be interesting to hear if any readers have had experience of this remedy, recommended in the R. H. S. Journal last summer. I have two beds along a low wall in which are some three dozen choice Delphiniums associated with Lilium candidum and L. testaceum. For two seasons the effect has been quite spoilt by slugs, in spite of ashes, lime, Cocoanut-fibre refuse, night attacks, and runner ducklings. After reading the article in the R. H. S. Journal I bought 1 lb. of aluminium sulphate (pure), not alum, dissolved in a gallon of hot water as directed, and put in my spraying tank. I gave the Delphinium beds a good doing on three separate evenings and used the rest on my lettuce. I saw no more slugs, and several of the Delphiniums made autumn growth. This spring, after the wet, open winter, slugs have been appalling. They have browsed on Iris stylosa, particularly the white, cleared off white Grape Hyacinths, thinned out choice Californian Erythroniums, and even eaten off Narcissus calathinus hybrids, and Fritillaries, but my Delphiniums have come up strong, lusty, and unscathed. The spray seems to be effectual and destroy the little black fellows with yellow tummies, who are so hard to find with a hatpin at night and yet so voracious. I am going to spray my Iris and Paeonies next week, they suffered badly last year, and I shall dose the Iris stylosa in the autumn.—H. M. W. B. in Gardening Illustrated.

BOTANICAL GARDENS MOVED.

To carry on more extensive research and experimental work, the Botanical Gardens of the University of California are to be uprooted from their present site near the Library, where they have been for thirty years, and replanted in Strawberry Canyon. The deterioration of the soil and the large number of shade trees in the former site made the change necessary.

Plans are being made for four hundred plants; three hundred of which will be moved from the old Botanical Gardens. In addition a rockery has been built of native rocks. Plants grown in a rockery, according to Prof. T. H. Goodspeed of the Botany Department, do not require much water, and can withstand the heat. They are representative of the type of plants prevalent in English gardens.

"In a short time," states Professor Goodspeed, "the new botanical gardens should be the most beautiful in the world. The site itself is unusual, being at the head of a canyon which widens toward the ocean."

Flower Show in Balboa Park April 24 and 25.

RAINFORD FLOWER SHOP

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Floral Designs

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MARCH IS A SPECIAL TOASTER MONTH

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LOOK OUT FOR "HERBAE PRATI"

Fraud Order Issued Against Firm Selling This So-Called Lawn Grass Mixture.

Many persons have been victimized by the Zenith Lawn Accessory Company, a firm with numerous mail addresses, engaged in selling a grass seed mixture for lawns under the coined name "Herbae Prati." The Post-office Department has denied the company the use of the mail. According to the United States Department of Agriculture, grossly erroneous statements as to its suitability for lawns have been made. Its qualities have been proclaimed in such phrases as "The boss of all grasses"; "the world's most beautiful blue-grass"; "a lawn in 30 days anywhere"; "it will grow where other grasses have failed, in any soil or climate"; "heat, cold, or shade will not affect it".

An analysis of the mixture made by the department seed testing laboratory showed it to be composed mainly of meadow fescue and Italian rye grass. The victims have paid as high as $1.50 a pound for the mixture, whereas, according to the department, the constituents of the Herbae Prati mixture could have been purchased from reputable seed firms for not more than 18 to 20 cents a pound.

The postal fraud order has put a stop to the use of the mails by the firm, but traveling agents are still active throughout the country, especially in the Southern States at present, selling "Herbae Prati" by house to house canvass and to local seed handlers.

Meadow fescue is not a lawn grass. In the humid sections of the United States it is a good meadow and pasture grass when used in mixtures with other grasses, but it may be said unqualifiedly that it is not a desirable lawn grass nor is it drought-resistant in the commonly accepted sense of the term. Italian rye grass is sometimes used for making temporary lawns or as a minor constituent of permanent lawn mixture for quick and temporary results. Meadow fescue and Italian rye grass are not turf-forming grasses, but grow in bunches much the same as timothy, and, therefore, it is impossible for them to make a velvety turf. By nature of their growth they are not aggressive against weeds and creeping grasses, and they are no more tolerant of shade than is Kentucky blue-grass.

EDGINGS FOR WINTER AND SPRING

The practice of edging beds and borders with plants of a permanent character is steadily increasing. In former years much thought, care, and expense were undertaken for a summer display by planting subjects of a half-hardy nature, which were consigned to the rubbish-heap at the end of the season, and though this obtains largely now, there seems to be a disposition to have something "to look green for the winter," and that will bring blossoms and beauty in spring. We have many hardy things that serve us—and serve us well—for this purpose. In the dwarf Campanulas alone we have those which begin to flower in May and remain a source of attraction for weeks and months. Preceding them, Aubrietias bring masses of flaming colors, and the rosy-purple Thyme is equally attractive. One of the commonest cushion-liks plants to be met with in many country gardens is Sedum acre, with multitudes of golden-yellow blossoms that in late spring make bright the margins of paths. May, too, brings us those other cushion plants that multiply so rapidly and which are being appreciated for edging, almost as much in some quarters as about a rock garden the Saxifrages. Quite a number of my acquaintances place their faith in Tufted Pansies to afford refreshing green from November to spring, when abundance of blossoms follows. Pathways fringed with whiteness in the early days of spring may be assured wherever Arabis is planted. Another cushion plant compact to a degree is found in the Thrifts, studded with white and rosy-pink flowers. If one desires a plant quick of growth with abundance of miniature white flowers in May, one that will grow in the commonest of soils, then Asperula, the fragrant Woodruff, should be tried. The chief point needed to be watched wherever this is grown is that it should not be allowed too much latitude. One might do worse than edge a border with Pinks, the foliage being neat and attractive throughout winter and spring, and fragrant when the flowers open.—Leahurst, in Popular Gardening.

Flower Show in Balboa Park April 24 and 25.

SYNTHETIC MANURE

Continued from February Issue

pares favorably with the average composition of barnyard manure, which contains in each ton ten pounds of nitrogen, three pounds of phosphorous and eight pounds of potassium.

These two illustrations of how the farmers of Japan and Great Britain are solving the problem of a lack of manure should be of great interest and value to nurserymen, market gardeners, florists and fruit men everywhere who feel a similar need.

In America, synthetic manure can be economically prepared in many cases from such abundant waste material as straw, stubble, stover, vines and weeds by composting it with garden soil or a small amount of fresh ma-

nure to supply the necessary bacteria.

If to each ton of waste vegetable material used about forty pounds of acid phosphate also is added, a product will be secured which is superior to the best barnyard manure. Such synthetic manure should prove a great boon to all those who cannot secure a sufficient supply of barnyard manure for maintaining the productivity of the soil.

"Some work is in progress at the Illinois agricultural station with a view of determining the value of synthetic manures. Our investigations have not progressed sufficiently far to warrant any conclusions. It appears however, that two difficulties are to be met. In the first place, it is necessary to wet the straw which is used for the production of manure. This means a considerable effort on the part of the farmer at a time when he is rushed. This objection probably would not hold for some other users of manure. In the next place, the cost of the patented reagent is nearly as much as an equivalent amount of manure is worth. Unless it has a greater value, therefore, than ordinary manure, it would seem that there will be no demand for the material until the price has decreased. It is, of course, possible that other reagents may be used."—O. H. Sears, assistant professor soil biology, University of Illinois.

VEGETABLE GARDEN

Continued from Page 5

is a very pretty type with wavy petals the flowers coming earlier in the season than the American Beauty. The tall Double Stock Flowered Larkspur makes a wonderful cut flower and a fine background for lower growing plants, and comes in many shades of pink, lavender, lilac and blue and in snapdragons the best strains of the Majus type give wonderfully long stems of magnificent flowers in pink, ruby, terra cotta, yellow and other colors. However, snaps are subject to rust and should be kept in a vigorous state of health and growth, spraying them occasionally with Qua-Sul before you notice the rust, in which case you will probably prevent it from happening, after it starts, it is hard to stop.

Gladioli planting is now strictly in season and when the bulbs are properly taken care of, they will produce flowers in from two and a half to three months from time of planting. It is impossible to keep in touch with the tremendous number of new introductions of this beautiful flower, some of which are priced as high as $200.00 and $300.00 each! But you can get many of the standard varieties, such as Mrs. Pendleton, Marshal Foch, Alice Tiplady, Prince of Wales, America, Baron Hulot and many other beautiful varieties for $1.00 per dozen and $5.00 or $6.00 per 100. Gladioli will do well in any good garden soil which is well spaded and fertilized, planting them 4 to 5 inches deep and 6 to 8 inches apart, or closer if you wish. When once started they will stand plenty of water, particularly if the ground is well drained. April and May are good months for dahlia planting, and the choice of varieties is nearly as great as in gladioli.

A BACKYARD FLOWER GARDEN

Continued from Page 2

finding the equally exquisite biflora on the desert. Both blossoms carry an ethereal atmosphere. The lipine is of an unusually soft pink lavendar shade. The white blazing stars are growing in the more exposed places. We note that the smoke bush, the mesquite and creosote bush seem to be especially fine in this locality. Several palo verde trees—Parkinsonia—in full bloom give the effect of a swarm of yellow butterflies hovering over the floor of the canyon. By the way, we don't see a single butterfly, no lizards, no snakes, only one beetle and one lovely wren, but we know there are many there. A delightful overnight camping party could be staged in the canyon, giving one opportunity to do much exploring and collecting and also to enjoy a night in the isolated, lonely and rather weird location.

Coming down out of the canyon we have a fine view of the Salton Sea spread out at our feet and intensifying the feeling of vastness always conveyed by the desert. We make the return trip through the same flower garden by way of Palm Springs and Palm Canyon, which is totally different from the Painted Canyon but just as wonderful in its way. The fame of Palm Canyon has so gone abroad that in the spring of the year its density of population, number of picnic baskets and babies is apt to approximate that of the beaches in the summer—all worthy features in their places to be sure, but to the nature lover not an attraction. Just now the streams in Palm Canyon are low. Later in the season when the snows on San Jacinto have melted the water will be higher.

Again at Jackrabbit Pass for sunset—a sunset of longer duration and of more color than the sunrise from the same point, but a sunset which seems to repeat again the colors we have seen in the backyard flower garden.

"A day well spent. A day of four hundred miles and twice four hundred matchless pictures" is our thought as the sun slips behind the front door in the west.

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